

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 28, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2005

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1014**

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**Introduced by Senator Alquist**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Speier)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Denham)**

~~(Coauthor: Assembly Member Cogdill)~~ *Coauthors: Assembly Members  
Cogdill and Mullin*

February 22, 2005

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An act relating to trial costs, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1014, as amended, Alquist. Trial costs: Peterson case.

(1) Existing law provides for state reimbursement of certain county costs incurred with respect to homicide trials. Existing law authorizes the Controller to reimburse extraordinary costs in unusual cases if the county provides sufficient justification, as specified.

This bill would make findings and declarations about the extraordinary costs incurred in the unusual case of *People v. Scott Peterson*. The bill would specifically authorize local agencies involved in that case to apply to the Controller for reimbursement of their extraordinary costs. The bill would require the Attorney General to ~~develop a policy, to be submitted~~ *convene a task force, with representatives from specified state agencies and organizations, and to submit guidelines* to the Legislature, regarding state reimbursement of local costs incurred in those types of cases.

(2) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The homicide case of People v. Scott Peterson incurred
- 4 unusual and extraordinary costs in investigating, preparing for
- 5 trial, and prosecuting the case.
- 6 (b) The challenges faced in the investigation of the
- 7 disappearance of Laci Peterson included all of the following:
- 8 (1) Involvement of the district attorney's office for over two
- 9 years.
- 10 (2) Assistance from more than 90 local, county, state and
- 11 federal agencies.
- 12 (3) More than 10,000 telephone leads that had to be
- 13 investigated.
- 14 (4) Extensive geographic areas had to be searched, due to ~~tips~~
- 15 *tips* and direct leads from computer and forensic evidence,
- 16 including extensive searches in several bodies of water.
- 17 (5) Massive community response requiring search direction
- 18 and coordination.
- 19 (6) The obligation of law enforcement to follow up on all
- 20 leads, regardless of cost or difficulty.
- 21 (c) The cost of the investigation and prosecution of the
- 22 murders of Laci and Connor Peterson have placed a tremendous
- 23 burden on local agencies who have a responsibility to protect the
- 24 public, despite the enormous financial burden imposed as a result
- 25 of this homicide investigation and prosecution.
- 26 (d) ~~The Legislature further finds that the law which~~ *The law*
- 27 *that* provides for state reimbursement of certain county costs
- 28 related to homicide trials was originally intended to assure rural
- 29 local agencies that inadequate financial resources would not
- 30 impede the pursuit of justice.
- 31 (e) It is fundamentally important to our judicial system, on
- 32 behalf of both the victim and the accused, that rural local
- 33 agencies have adequate resources when these extraordinary cases
- 34 occur.

1 SEC. 2. Local agencies may apply to the Controller, pursuant  
2 to Section 15202 of the Government Code, for reimbursement of  
3 the extraordinary costs incurred in investigation and prosecution  
4 of the unusual case of People v. Scott Peterson that exceed the  
5 State Board of Control's standards for travel and per diem  
6 expenses.

7 SEC. 3. The Attorney General shall ~~develop a policy~~  
8 ~~regarding, and shall~~ *convene a task force whose membership*  
9 *shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the State*  
10 *Controller's office, the Department of Finance, the California*  
11 *Police Chiefs' Association, the League of California Cities, and*  
12 *the California Sheriffs' Association. The Attorney General shall*  
13 *chair the task force and* submit to the Legislature by January 1,  
14 2006, guidelines for, when and how to make reimbursements to  
15 local agencies for extraordinary cases.

16 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the  
17 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety  
18 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go  
19 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

20 In order for local agencies to be reimbursed as soon as  
21 possible, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.